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TO: More at Four Local Contract Administrators & Program Contacts

FROM: John Pruette, Executive Director

RE: More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program Expansion Update and Release of the Program Guidelines and Requirements Effective SFY 2007-2008

DATE: August 1, 2007

Yesterday Governor Easley signed the budget agreement adopted by the General Assembly that includes \$56 million to expand the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program. The \$56 million expansion includes funding to serve 10,000 more children, a slot rate increase for each existing and expansion slot of \$400 per year and \$500 in one-time start-up funds for each expansion slot.

In addition, the More at Four Program legislation includes new language that expands eligibility, which reads: "Furthermore, any age-eligible child of (i) an active duty member of the armed forces of the United States, including the North Carolina National Guard, State military forces, or a reserve component of the armed forces, who is ordered to active duty by the proper authority within the last 18 months or expected to be ordered within the next 18 months, or (ii) a member of the armed forces of the United States, including the North Carolina National Guard, State military forces, or a reserve component of the armed forces, who was injured or killed while serving on active duty, shall be eligible for the program."

At this time, we are releasing the More at Four Pre-Kindergarten Program Guidelines and Requirements Effective SFY 2007-2008, which are effective immediately (document attached). The document is also available on the More at Four website at <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/Office/Education/Home.asp>; click Program Information link/Program Guidelines. Please disseminate the revised Program Guidelines and Requirements to each member of your More at Four Committee and to your local More at Four program site administrators and teachers. **There are revisions throughout the document that require your careful review.** In addition to eligibility changes (Section 3: The More at Four Child), there are changes to the Program Attendance policy, the Monitoring Timeline, as well as other revisions of equal importance. If you have questions about Program Guidelines and Requirements, please call your OSR/More at Four state program consultant.

The 2007-2008 Fiscal and Contract Manual will be sent in a separate e-mail.

On behalf of the Office of School Readiness, thank you for your work to offer high-quality pre-kindergarten programs and services to children across North Carolina. Please continue your efforts to expand pre-kindergarten opportunities for children with this new funding and the new eligibility for children of military families. The continued collaboration at the local level will make this expansion of services successful. We look forward to working with all of you in the upcoming year.

Attachment



John R. Pruette, M.Ed., *Executive Director* | john.pruette@ncmail.net

2075 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2075 | (919) 981-5300 | Fax (919) 855-6840

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